

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of a food product from [[a]] whey ~~intermediate~~ containing annatto as a pigment, which process comprises:
  - (a) contacting [[a]] whey ~~intermediate~~ containing annatto as a pigment with at least one enzyme for which annatto is a substrate under conditions such that at least a portion of the annatto present in [[the]] said whey ~~intermediate~~ is converted directly by said at least one enzyme ~~to form a whitened~~ so that said whey ~~intermediate~~ is whitened; and
  - (b) preparing the food product from the whitened whey ~~intermediate obtained~~ resulting from step (a).
2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the food product is made from flour.
3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the food product is a dairy product.
- Claim 4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the enzyme is added as an enzyme preparation derived from a microorganism or produced in situ by a microorganism capable of producing said enzyme.
6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5 wherein the enzyme is added as an enzyme preparation derived from or produced in situ by a bacterium, a fungus or a yeast.
7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 6 wherein the fungus belongs to the genus *Marasmius*.

8. (Previously Presented) A food product made by the process according to claim 1.
9. (Previously Presented) A food product which comprises at least one part thereof that has been subjected to treatment with an enzyme according to the process of claim 1.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein the flour is wheat flour.
12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 7, wherein the fungus is *Marasmius scorodoni*.

Claims 13 and 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A process for whitening annatto-containing whey comprising contacting an annatto-containing whey with a beta-carotene converting enzyme obtained from *Marasmius scorodoni* under conditions such that said annatto-containing whey is whitened.